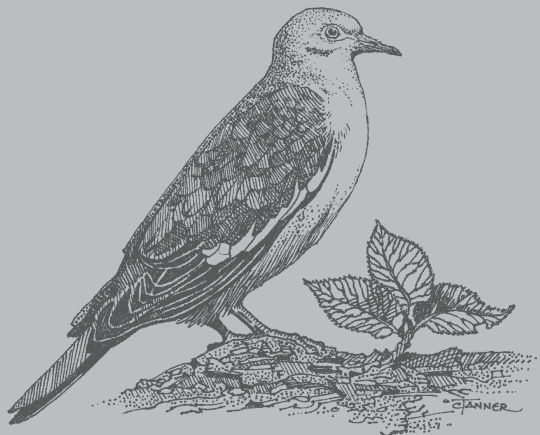


# Arizona Dove and Band-tailed Pigeon Regulations

2010-2011



## Arizona Game and Fish Department

5000 W. Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

(602) 942-3000  
[www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)



## Synopsis of Federal Regulations Applicable to Migratory Bird Hunting

*Federal regulations regarding bird hunting are described in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). These can be found at [www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html). The regulations below can be found at 50 CFR 20.21 unless otherwise noted. An electronic version of these regulations can be found by downloading this booklet as a PDF at [www.azgfd.gov/rules](http://www.azgfd.gov/rules).*

**WEAPON** – Migratory game birds may be taken only with a 10 gauge or smaller shotgun capable of holding not more than three shells unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so the gun's total capacity does not exceed three shells. Birds may also be taken by falconry or by bow and arrow, or crossbow.

**MOTOR-VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS** – No person may take migratory game birds from or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind. Special regulations govern handicapped hunters.

**WATERCRAFT RESTRICTIONS** – Migratory game birds may not be taken from or by means of any watercraft or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress there from has ceased. A watercraft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds but no shooting is permitted while the watercraft is underway. No person shall take migratory game birds by means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.

**DECOYS, CALLS AND BAITING** – Migratory game birds may not be taken by the use or aid of live decoys, recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. It is illegal to take birds by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered baited for 10 days after the complete removal of all bait. It is legal to take migratory game birds, except waterfowl, coots and cranes, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

**RETRIEVAL AND TAGGING** – No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort



HUNTERS: MOURNING DOVE WING COLLECTION

Arizona is cooperating with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in collecting mourning dove wings from hunters this year. Randomly selected hunters will be asked to save one wing from each dove during the first week of the season and mail the wings (postage free) to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Data from the wings will be used to estimate annual productivity of the dove population, and will be used in helping to establish hunting regulations in the future.

FOR YOUTH HUNTERS

In an effort to introduce kids and beginners to hunting, the Arizona Game and Fish Department is collaborating with sportsmen's groups, gun clubs, and conservation organizations, to host mentored, hands-on hunting camps and events throughout the season and across the state. These programs offer an excellent way to learn about hunting in a structured and supportive manner. The dove hunting opportunities include:

**SEPT. 4-5: JUNIORS-ONLY DOVE HUNT** – Held at Robbins Butte Wildlife Area near Buckeye; food, tips and guidance offered; hosted by the Chandler Rod and Gun Club; contact [www.chandlerrodandgunclub.com](http://www.chandlerrodandgunclub.com).

**SEPT. 4: JUNIORS-ONLY DOVE HUNT** – Three Points area near Tucson; food, tips and guidance offered; hosted by the Arizona State Chapter of Safari Club International; contact [www.azsci.com](http://www.azsci.com).

**SEPT. 11: FIRST-TIME HUNTERS DOVE HUNT** – East Valley (Phoenix/Mesa/Chandler); food, tips and guidance offered; is hosted by the Chandler Rod and Gun Club; contact [www.chandlerrodandgunclub.com](http://www.chandlerrodandgunclub.com).

The Arizona Game and Fish Department supports and promotes introducing children to the American tradition of hunting. It is important that future generations learn how hunting plays a significant role in the conservation and management of wildlife. The Game and Fish offers a wide variety of juniors-only hunting and shooting programs. These programs are designed to get children in the field with a parent, guardian, or mentor who can focus completely on the child, and provide the guidance needed to teach the next generation of hunters how to be responsible and ethical conservationists.

For a listing of other mentored camps offered this season, including small game and big game hunting camps, see page 26-27 of the 2010-11 Arizona Hunting and Trapping Regulations or visit, [www.azgfd.gov/getoutside](http://www.azgfd.gov/getoutside).

SUNRISE/SUNSET 2010-2011		
(Times shown are for central Arizona. Figure up to nine minutes earlier for eastern areas, nine minutes later for western areas.)		
DATE	RISE	SET
Sept. 1	6:02	6:54
Sept. 5	6:05	6:48
Sept. 10	6:08	6:41
Sept. 15	6:12	6:35
Sept. 20	6:15	6:28
Sept. 25	6:19	6:21
Sept. 30	6:22	6:14
Oct. 1	6:23	6:13
Oct. 5	6:26	6:07
Oct. 10	6:29	6:01
Oct. 15	6:33	5:55
Oct. 20	6:37	5:49
Oct. 25	6:41	5:43
Oct. 30	6:45	5:38
Nov. 1	6:47	5:36
Nov. 5	6:51	5:33
Nov. 10	6:55	5:29
Nov. 15	7:00	5:26
Nov. 20	7:05	5:23
Nov. 25	7:09	5:21
Nov. 30	7:14	5:20
Dec. 1	7:14	5:20
Dec. 5	7:18	5:20
Dec. 10	7:22	5:21
Dec. 15	7:25	5:22
Dec. 20	7:28	5:24
Dec. 25	7:30	5:27
Dec. 30	7:32	5:30
Jan. 1	7:33	5:31
Jan. 5	7:33	5:35



## One Feathered Wing

Sportsmen should note that one feathered wing must be left attached to all migratory game birds, including collared-doves, until they reach their final destination.

## Littering While Hunting

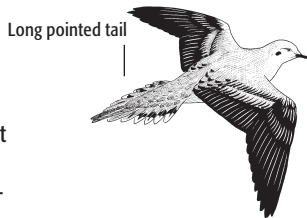
All hunters are responsible for cleaning up after themselves. Shell casings (shotshell hulls) and associated debris constitute litter and must be picked up and packed out. All camp areas must be left clean.

## Dove Bands

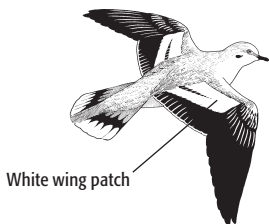
During the past seven summers, Arizona banded more than 15,000 doves throughout the state as part of a nation-wide effort to better manage mourning doves. The hunter is a critical link in this mourning dove banding study. Banded doves have a numbered band and phone number. If you harvest a banded mourning dove please call 1(800) 327-BAND (2263) to report it or go online at [www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl). Hunters can keep the bands and will be provided a certificate identifying the age, sex, date and location the bird was banded.

## Legal Game Doves (May Be Hunted During Open Season)

**MOURNING DOVE** Slightly smaller than the white-winged dove. Mourning doves may fly with white-winged doves, but can be distinguished by their more rapid wing beat, more erratic flight path and pointed tail. In fall, the highest densities are found in desert agricultural areas, around water sources and desert areas where annual plants and seeds are abundant.

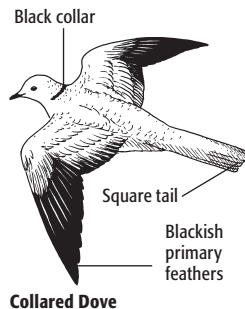


**WHITE-WINGED DOVE** Somewhat larger than a mourning dove with a white bar on the upper wing surface and a long, moderately rounded tail. The range of white-winged doves generally coincides with the distribution of the saguaro cactus.



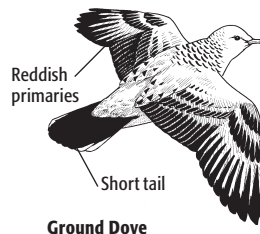
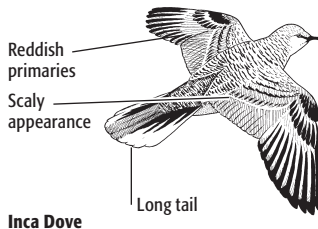
## Legal Game Doves (May Be Hunted During Open Season)

**COLLARED DOVE** Collared doves are larger than both the native white-winged and mourning doves. They have a black collar on the top part of the neck, pale gray coloration, and dark primary feathers. These doves are an introduced species that have recently expanded their range into Arizona. Originally native on the Indian subcontinent, this bird was introduced to the Bahamas in the 1970s and quickly spread to Florida. They are widely distributed in Arizona.



## Protected Birds (May Not Be Hunted)

**INCA DOVE AND GROUND DOVE:** *Small birds approximately half the size of a mourning dove.* Both are gray and fly close to the ground with rapid wingbeats. The inca has a scaly appearance with a long tail that has white margins. Ground dove has a short, round dark tail. Common summer resident in the better watered valleys, mostly south of the Mogollon Rim.



# Dove: Commission Order 19

## GENERAL DOVE

*Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting under A.R.S. Sections 17-303 and 17-304 or Commission Rules R12-4-301, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.*

Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Wildlife
Sep 1 - Sep 15, 2010	(1,4,5,6,7,8,9,11,12)	Open Areas Statewide	Any Mourning or White-winged dove
Nov 19, 2010 - Jan 2, 2011	(2,4,5,7,8,9,11,12)	Open areas statewide	Any Mourning dove
Sep 1, 2010 - Aug 31, 2011	(3,5,7,9,11,12)	Open areas statewide	Any Eurasian collared dove

**LAWFUL TAKING DEVICE:** Shotgun, bow and arrow, or crossbow as prescribed in R12-4-304 or by falconry.

**LICENSE REQUIRED:** Any valid hunting license plus a Migratory Bird Stamp (A Migratory Bird Stamp is not required for Eurasian collared doves). Falconers must be licensed pursuant to R12-4-422 or exempted pursuant to R12-4-407.

**SHOOTING HOURS:** One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

## JUNIORS-ONLY DOVE

*Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting under A.R.S. Sections 17-303 and 17-304 or Commission Rules R12-4-301, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.*

Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Wildlife
Sep 4 - Sep 5, 2010	(1,6,8,10)	Robbins Butte Wildlife Area	Mourning dove, White-winged dove, and Eurasian collared dove

**LAWFUL TAKING DEVICE:** Shotgun, bow and arrow, or crossbow as prescribed in R12-4-304.

**LICENSE REQUIRED:** Any valid hunting license required for participants age 14 through 17; participants under 14 need not be licensed if accompanied by a licensed adult as prescribed in ARS 17-335.

**SHOOTING HOURS:** One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

**ELIGIBLE HUNTERS:** Pursuant to R12-4-318 persons are eligible to participate up to and throughout the calendar year of their 17th birthday.

## FALCONRY-ONLY DOVE

*Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting under A.R.S. Sections 17-303 and 17-304 or Commission Rules R12-4-301, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.*

Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Wildlife
Sep 16 - Nov 1, 2010	(4,6,7,8,9,11,12)	Open areas statewide	Mourning dove, White-winged dove, and Eurasian collared dove

**LAWFUL TAKING DEVICE:** Falconry as prescribed in R12-4-318 and R12-4-101.

**LICENSE REQUIRED:** Any valid hunting license plus a Migratory Bird Stamp. Falconers must be licensed pursuant to R12-4-422 or exempted pursuant to R12-4-407.

**HAWKING HOURS:** One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

## Dove Notes:

1. **BAG LIMIT:** Ten (10) Mourning and White-winged Doves per day in the aggregate, of which no more than six (6) may be White-winged Doves. **POSSESSION LIMIT:** Twenty (20) Mourning and White-winged Doves in the aggregate after opening day, of which no more than twelve (12) may be White-winged Doves. No more than ten (10) doves in the aggregate, of which no more than six (6) may be White-winged Doves, may be taken in any one day.
2. **BAG LIMIT:** Ten (10) Mourning Doves per day. **POSSESSION LIMIT:** Twenty (20) Mourning Dove after opening day, of which no more than ten (10) may be taken in any one day.
3. **EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT:** Unlimited.
4. **FALCONRY BAG LIMIT:** Three (3) per day. Note: The aggregate falconry bag limit of all migratory game birds is three (3), comprised of any combination of migratory game bird species for which a general season, that includes falconry as a legal method of take, or a falconry-only season is open. Falconers should consult Commission Orders 19, 20, 21, and 22 for season dates and open areas. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to the firearms bag limits. **FALCONRY POSSESSION LIMIT:** Six (6) in the aggregate of all migratory game birds in season (Commission Orders 19 through 22) after opening day, of which no more than three (3) may be taken in any one day.
5. The Bill Williams River, Cibola, Imperial, Buenos Aires, Havasu and San Bernadino National Wildlife Refuges are open to dove hunting **EXCEPT** for posted portions. A fee may be required for hunting on National Wildlife Refuges, and other restrictions may apply; see refuge regulations.
6. Robbins Butte Wildlife Area – **EXCEPT** as authorized in this Commission order for the September Juniors-Only Dove season, the following area is closed to all taking of wildlife during the September dove season: Beginning at the junction of the Robbins Butte main access road and the road which runs northeasterly from the orange irrigation pump, which lies approximately 1/2 mile west of US Hwy 85; northeasterly 1-1/4 mile along posted fence line to the southerly edge of the active channel of the Gila River; southwesterly 2-1/2 miles along the southerly edge of the active channel of the river to the south center section line of Section 21; south 1 mile along posted center section line and east edge of dirt road to approximately the center of Section 28 and the intersection of the north edge of a dirt road; east 3/4 mile along posted north edge of road to a cattleguard; north 1/4 mile along posted fenceline to the north edge of Robbins Butte main access road; easterly 1-1/2 miles along the posted north edge of the Robbins Butte main access road to the point of beginning; all in T1S, R4W, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Maricopa County, Arizona.
7. A portion of 47M has been closed to hunting. Hunting is not permitted in the following area of unit 47M: an unincorporated portion of land within the City of Mesa known as the Elliot and Hawes County Island in Section 16, Township 1 South, Range 7 East.
8. **HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM:** As required by A.R.S. 17-333.03 and R12-4-203, dove hunters age 16 and older shall have in their possession an Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp which will validate their license for the federal Harvest Information Program. The Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp may be obtained, for a cost of \$4.50 on or after July 1, from any Game and Fish Department offices, wherever hunting licenses are sold, by mail or online at [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov).
9. The Grand Canyon-Parashant, Vermillion Cliffs, Sonoran Desert, Ironwood Forest, and Agua Fria National Monuments are open to hunting.
10. **SELECTION OF HUNTERS:** A limited portion of the wildlife area will be restricted to junior hunters only. Shooting stations will be assigned on a first-come, first served basis unless there are more people desiring to participate than available shooting stations, then a drawing will be held at 4:45 a.m. Hunters must check in prior to hunting and check out following completion of their hunt at the Game and Fish Department check station.
11. Hunting is not permitted in Unit 26M in the following described area: Those private lands lying just north of the Town of Cave Creek in Sections 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 of Township 6 North, Range 3 East.
12. Falconry hunting will not be permitted on National Wildlife Refuges.



# Band-tailed Pigeon: Commission Order 20

## GENERAL BAND-TAILED PIGEON

*Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting under A.R.S. Sections 17-303 and 17-304 or Commission Rules R12-4-301, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.*

Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Wildlife
Sep 10 - Oct 3, 2010	(1,2,3)	Open Areas Statewide	Any Band-tailed Pigeon

**LAWFUL TAKING DEVICE:** Shotgun, bow and arrow, or crossbow as prescribed in R12-4-304 or by falconry.  
**LICENSE REQUIRED:** Any valid hunting license license plus a Migratory Bird Stamp. Falconers must be licensed pursuant to R12-4-422 or exempted pursuant to R12-4-407.  
**SHOOTING HOURS:** One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.  
**BAG LIMIT:** Five (5) Band-tailed pigeons per day.  
**POSSESSION LIMIT:** Ten (10) Band-tailed pigeons after opening day, of which no more than five (5) may be taken in any one day.  
**FALCONRY BAG LIMIT:** Three (3) per day. Note: The aggregate falconry bag limit of all migratory game birds is three (3), comprised of any combination of migratory game bird species for which a general season, that includes falconry as a legal method of take, or a falconry-only season is open. Falconers should consult Commission Orders 19, 20, 21 and 22 for season dates and open areas. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to the firearms bag limits.  
**FALCONRY POSSESSION LIMIT:** Six (6) in the aggregate of all migratory game birds in season (Commission Orders 19 through 22) after opening day, of which no more than three (3) may be taken in any one day.

### Band-tailed Pigeon Notes:

- HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM:** As required by A.R.S. 17-333.03 and R12-4-203, band-tailed pigeon hunters age 16 and older shall have in their possession an Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp which will validate their license for the federal Harvest Information Program. The Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp is available for purchase at any license dealer, Game and Fish Department offices or online at [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov).
- The Grand Canyon-Parashant, Vermillion Cliffs, Sonoran Desert, Ironwood Forest, and Agua Fria National Monuments are open to hunting.
- Hunting is not permitted in Unit 26M in the following described area: Those private lands lying just north of the Town of Cave Creek in Sections 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15 of Township 6 North, Range 3 East.

## **Arizona Game and Fish Department**

5000 W. Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, Arizona 85086

(602) 942-3000

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*The Arizona Game and Fish Department prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, disability in its programs and activities. Discrimination on the basis of sex is prohibited in federally assisted AGFD programs. If anyone believes that they have been discriminated against in any of the AGFD's programs or activities, including its employment practices, the individual may file a complaint alleging discrimination directly with the Director's Office, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086, (602) 942-3000 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Dr., Suite 130, Arlington, VA 22203. If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact the Director's Office as listed above or by calling TTY at 1-800-367-8939.*



***The following is a synopsis of Federal Regulations that pertain to the hunting of migratory game birds. Persons requiring more information should go to: [www.access.gpo/nara/cfr/](http://www.access.gpo/nara/cfr/). Were they will find a complete version of 50 CFR Part 20. When State law is different from the following Federal law the hunter must comply with the most restrictive law.***

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## **What terms do I need to understand?**

**Migratory Birds** are birds protected by federal law as a result of treaties signed with other countries. Protected migratory birds are listed in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Section. 10.13. This list includes almost all birds found in the United States with the exception of the house sparrow, feral pigeon (commonly called rock dove), European starling, Eurasian collared-dove, mute swan, and upland game birds (which are protected by state laws).

All migratory birds are protected. However, a subset of migratory birds classified as migratory game birds and may be hunted in accordance with State and Federal regulations. The list of migratory game birds includes species of ducks, geese (including brant), swans, doves and pigeons, cranes, rails, coots, gallinules and moorhens, woodcock and snipe, if there is an open season.

**Daily bag limit** means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

**Aggregate daily bag limit** means the maximum number of migratory game birds permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season when such person hunts in more than one specified geographic area and/or for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species or for any one specified geographic area in which taking occurs.

**Possession limit** means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.

**Aggregate possession limit** means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination of species taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which taking and possession occurs.

**Personal abode** means one's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling such as a hunting club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure or business trip.

**Migratory bird preservation facility** means:

- (1) Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration; or
- (2) Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or

- (3) Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations; receives, possesses, or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.

**Normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation** means a planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain, that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Normal agricultural operation** means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Normal soil stabilization practice** means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural soil erosion control.

**Baited area** means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.

**Baiting** means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

**Manipulation** means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. The term manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

**Natural vegetation** means any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. The term natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

## **What hunting methods are illegal?**

**No persons shall take migratory game birds:**

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machinegun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;

- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells.
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased;
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
- By means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird;
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

**It is legal to take migratory game birds including waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:**

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics);
- Standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

It is **legal** to take migratory game birds, **except waterfowl, coots and cranes**, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

**Wanton waste of migratory game birds** No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

**Non-toxic Shot** No person may take ducks, geese (including brant), or coots while possessing shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) other than approved non-toxic shot. For a list of approved non-toxic shot, see [www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/nontoxic\\_shot/nontoxic.htm](http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/nontoxic_shot/nontoxic.htm)

**Opening Day of a Season** No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit, or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

**Field Possession Limit** No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

**Tagging requirement** No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

**Custody of birds of another** No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

**Termination of possession** Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by him to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

**Gift of migratory game birds** No person may receive, possess, or give to another, any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds and the date such birds were taken.

**Transportation of birds of another** No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

**Species identification requirement** No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

**Marking package or container** No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

**Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp** The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his person a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) that is validated by the hunter signing the stamp in ink across the face of the stamp.

More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges opened to public hunting. For additional information on refuge specific regulations see [www.fws.gov/refuges/](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/).